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**REMARKS**

Claims 20-24, 27, and 29 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-19, 25-26, and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice.

In response to the Examiner's priority objection, Applicants have amended the instant application to contain reference to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/467,207 and U.S. Patent No. 6,310,300. Further, Applicants have filed herewith a new declaration as required 37 C.F.R. 1.67(a). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the priority rejection.

With respect to the Examiner's drawing objections, Applicants have labeled Figure 1 as prior art as well as submitted a new Figure 3 that identifies the underlying wiring layer disclosed on page 11, lines 14-17. Further, page 8, lines 20-22 of the specification has been amended to further identify the via portion, 5, depicted in Figure 1. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled. Therefore, the drawing objections pertaining to such claims is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the drawing rejections.

With respect to the specification objections, Applicants have amended pages 9, 10 and 11 of the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled. Therefore the specification objections pertaining to such claims is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the specification objections.

With respect to the claim objections, Applicants have amended claim 20 to provide antecedent basis for the term "substantially planar substrate," inserted the term "fluorine" in line 2 of claim 23, and cancelled claim 26. Claims 5, 4, and 7 have been

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cancelled. Therefore the claim objections pertaining to such claim is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the claim objections.

With respect to the claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claim 20 such that it now recites "a substrate having wires" in line 3 and "a metal structure" in line 8. In so doing, Applicants more clearly defined the invention. Support for the claim 20 amendment can be found throughout the specification, but in particular on page 11, lines 15-17. Claims 17-19 have been cancelled. Therefore the claim rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph pertaining to such claims in now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the claim objections.

The rejection of claims 20-24, 27, and 29 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 should be withdrawn. The cited art is not available as a reference for the instant application. As discussed above, Applicants have perfected the priority claim. The instant application claims priority from November 8, 1996. In accordance with the same, Applicants have concurrently filed a new declaration. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the claims rejections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The amendments to the claims, drawings, and specification add no new matter.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 20-24, 27, and 29 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
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